

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Luigi FIORINELLI, et al.

Attorney Docket Q64700

Appln. No.: not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: A THERMOFORMED PANEL AND METHOD FOR ITS PRODUCTION

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, delete the heading "DESCRIPTION" and insert the heading

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, after line 4 insert the heading

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Page 3, after line 5 insert the heading

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

after line 17 insert the heading

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket Q64700

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

11. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, obtainable by means of a process for the production of a panel.

12. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, having one or more reinforcing ribs or ridges projecting from one face of the panel and wherein the other face of the panel is free from concavities complementary to the said ribs or ridges, in which the material in the regions corresponding to the ribs or ridges has an expanded cellular structure with greater porosity than the porosity of the material present in the regions of lesser thickness.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.**

Parameter	Unit	Value	Standard Error	t-Statistic	p-Value
Intercept		1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000
Age	Years	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age squared	Years squared	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age cubed	Years cubed	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age quart	Years quart	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age quint	Years quint	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age sext	Years sext	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age sept	Years sept	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age oct	Years oct	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age non	Years non	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age dec	Years dec	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age elev	Years elev	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age duodec	Years duodec	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age tredec	Years tredec	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age quattuordec	Years quattuordec	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age quindecim	Years quindecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age sexdecim	Years sexdecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age septendecim	Years septendecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age octodecim	Years octodecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age novemdecim	Years novemdecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti	Years viginti	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et unum	Years viginti et unum	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et duo	Years viginti et duo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et tres	Years viginti et tres	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et quatuor	Years viginti et quatuor	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et quinque	Years viginti et quinque	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et sex	Years viginti et sex	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et septem	Years viginti et septem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et octo	Years viginti et octo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et novem	Years viginti et novem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et decem	Years viginti et decem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et undecim	Years viginti et undecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et duodecim	Years viginti et duodecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et tredecim	Years viginti et tredecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et quattuordecim	Years viginti et quattuordecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et quindecim	Years viginti et quindecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et sexdecim	Years viginti et sexdecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et septendecim	Years viginti et septendecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et octodecim	Years viginti et octodecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et novemdecim	Years viginti et novemdecim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti	Years viginti et viginti	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et unum	Years viginti et viginti et unum	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et duo	Years viginti et viginti et duo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et tres	Years viginti et viginti et tres	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et quatuor	Years viginti et viginti et quatuor	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et quinque	Years viginti et viginti et quinque	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et sex	Years viginti et viginti et sex	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et septem	Years viginti et viginti et septem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et octo	Years viginti et viginti et octo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et novem	Years viginti et viginti et novem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et decem	Years viginti et viginti et decem	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Age viginti et viginti et undecim	Years viginti et viginti et undecim	0.0000	0.000		

A panel comprising at least one layer of thermoformable plastics material having separate regions of different thickness, is obtained by a method comprising the steps of: extruding of a sheet of plastics material with the addition to the said material of an expansion agent, the extrusion being conducted in conditions such as to avoid expansion of the material or to cause only partial expansion thereof; heating the thus-obtained sheet to a temperature such as to cause post expansion of the material; and thermoforming the sheet in a thermoforming cavity of complementary shape to the desired panel so that the thermoformed panel produced has in the regions of greater thickness an expanded cellular structure where the material has a lower density than the density of the material in the regions of lesser thickness.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket Q64700

REMARKS

The above specification has been amended to add section headings to the various sections of the application and to delete the multiple dependencies therein. Entry and consideration of this Amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 29, 2001

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, delete the heading "DESCRIPTION" and insert the heading

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, after line 4 insert the heading

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

after line 17 insert the heading

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims are amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, obtainable by means of a process ~~according to claim 1 for the production of a panel.~~

12. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to ~~claims 10 or 11~~ claim 10, having one or more reinforcing ribs or ridges projecting from one face of the panel and wherein the other face of the panel is free from concavities complementary to the said ribs or ridges, in which the material in the regions corresponding to the ribs or ridges has an expanded cellular

structure with greater porosity than the porosity of the material present in the regions of lesser thickness.

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:**

**The abstract is changed as follows:**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A panel comprising at least one layer of thermoformable plastics material having separate regions of different thickness, is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

\_\_\_\_\_extruding of a sheet of plastics material with the addition to the said material of an expansion agent, the extrusion being conducted in conditions such as to avoid expansion of the material or to cause only partial expansion thereof;

\_\_\_\_\_heating the thus-obtained sheet to a temperature such as to cause post expansion of the material; and

\_\_\_\_\_thermoforming the sheet in a thermoforming cavity of complementary shape to the desired panel so that the thermoformed panel produced has in the regions of greater thickness an expanded cellular structure where the material has a lower density than the density of the material in the regions of lesser thickness.

(Fig. 4)